Caution: Road work ahead
Quenching tomorrow’s thirst
Modeling future land development
School siting reform
Our changing workforce

A publication of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Convening the region for 40 years
The Tampa Bay region is a complex mosaic. Within five minutes, our citizens can travel from a heavy industrial area to a rural countryside, having one foot in the global economy and the other in an agriculturally-based economy. We span the entire range, not only economically, but culturally. Although we embrace our diversity as a region, we also share in the challenge of maintaining our quality of life within our individual communities.

Transportation and traffic congestion, air and water quality, economic development and growth, inter-community disparities, workforce training, and housing, information technology and the digital divide. These are all tough challenges crossing jurisdictional boundaries—challenges best addressed through regional cooperation, planning and action.

In addition, regions are increasingly the dominant economic, environmental and social forces in our lives. They have become the basic building blocks in the global economy. To have a successful stake in the global marketplace, it is essential to have the size and competence of a region. Issues such as air and water quality, poverty challenges of distressed neighborhoods, and transportation have no regard for jurisdictional boundaries and must be addressed on a regional basis.

The tougher challenges of the 21st century will require regional thinkers, conveners and problem solvers. It will be essential to form both public and private partnerships for effective regional cooperation.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council brings together local governments and gubernatorial appointees in the Region to coordinate planning for the community’s future, while providing a venue for analyzing, resolving, and sharing solutions among the 43 jurisdictions in Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Manatee Counties. Florida’s regional councils are recognized as Florida’s only multipurpose regional entity in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in the region.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of building alliances that are inclusive of both the public and private sector where issues transcend boundaries. Regional councils and other regional organizations design strategies and create the partnerships for effective regional cooperation. The number of regional planning and service-delivery organizations currently exceeds a dozen in the typical region. These organizations include regional councils of government, single and multiple purpose transit, sewer and water and other public authorities, regional chambers of commerce and marketing alliances, regional civic organizations, college/university regional studies centers, regional community foundations and regional leadership forums.

The events of the past year have taught us to look beyond the boundaries of our cities and towns, our region, our state and even our great nation. We are learning that we belong to a worldwide community dedicated to the purpose of maintaining freedom and democracy. We believe this spirit of unity can also be found in the everyday challenges we face as a region.

As the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council embarks upon its 40th year we will continue to focus on the spirit of cooperation as we endeavor to serve our local governments and the citizens of the Tampa Bay region. Thinking regionally is a strategic investment in our future.

Further, we hope you will enjoy our new format for Visions, a magazine of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Through a Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer edition, we will strive to bring informative and relevant topics of interest to our members and the citizens of Tampa Bay.

Sincerely,
Councilman Jerry King, Chairman
Manny L. Pumariega, Executive Director

(Excerpts and statistics provided by the National Association of Regional Councils, Washington, D.C.)
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New maestro for Florida Orchestra

The Florida Orchestra has named Stefan Sanderling, chief conductor of France's Orchestre de Bretagne, as its next music director. He will succeed Jahja Ling, who steps down from that post at the end of this season after a fourteen-year tenure. The German-born Sanderling will become the orchestra's music-director designate for 2002-03 and begin a five-year contract as music director in the 2003-04 season.

In addition to his post in Bretagne, Sanderling was until this year music director of the Staatsstheater and the Philharmonic Orchestra Mainz. He comes from a musically distinguished family and is the son of Kurt Sanderling, former music director of the Leningrad Philharmonic. One of the five music director candidates invited to guest conduct The Florida Orchestra this season, Sanderling has conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the orchestras of Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, and Saint Louis, among others.

In announcing the appointment, Florida Orchestra Executive Director Leonard Stone called Sanderling "the right person for the orchestra and for Tampa Bay," and Sanderling noted that the orchestra was "certainly one of the best" he had conducted.

Currently residing in Berlin, Sanderling intends to make the Tampa Bay area his principal residence.

Squawking pucks arrive

St. Petersburg is squawking about the newest professional sport in the community. The St. Pete Parrots bring ice hockey back to the area. The season will run mid-October through mid-March, with the home opener Saturday, October 19th. The franchise will call the Bayfront Arena its home for the inaugural season, with a seating capacity of 5,730 fans for professional hockey.

The Parrots are one of the original members of the Atlantic Coast Hockey League, founded by Bill Coffey. Coffey was the founding member of the East Coast Hockey League in the mid 1980's and brings extensive ownership experience to the table.

The league will be comprised of six teams, Orlando Seals, Jacksonville Barracudas, Macon Trax, Cape Fear Fire Ants, Knoxville Ice Bears and the St. Pete Parrots.

Bruce Ramsay, formerly of the United Hockey League, will coach the Parrots.

He has carefully selected and signed ten young promising players already. Players in the league will primarily consist of free agents and recent college and junior hockey graduates. Ramsay will also be working closely with Vice President of Hockey Operations, Darryl Noren.

Individual ticket prices for the Parrots will range from $8 to $15 and will be available at all Ticketmaster locations or through the Bayfront Center Box Office starting September 30th.

Season tickets are available immediately by calling the Parrots office at (727) 898-PUCK and range in price from $224 to $420. Group discounts are also available by calling the Parrots office. For more information visit the team website at www.stpeteparrots.com or call (727) 898-PUCK.
Manatee County gets into visioning

The local governments of Manatee County will be conducting a citizen-based visioning process (Imagine Manatee) along with the development of a Visioning Implementation Plan.

This project will include all lands within Manatee County, including the six municipalities, as well as the unincorporated area.

The visioning process is intended to provide public consensus on community goals and policies impacting the development and redevelopment within Manatee County.

The goal is to have a citizen-based visioning process that is holistic, collaborative and graphically based with at least a fifty-year horizon.

The guiding principals of the visioning process include: the importance of a vibrant urban core; the essential need to protect key environmental systems; the need for a development pattern which enhances transportation alternatives; and the recognition that we are a community with urban, suburban and rural components.

The major components of the visioning process and implementation Plan involve developing data and trends for the general public; reviewing existing plans and creating probable scenarios; developing a photo survey of the community to graphically represent various scenarios; and developing a steering committee and appropriate outreach methods.

The process will also include extensive public participation by all stakeholders throughout the entire visioning process; preparing and analyzing community surveys and brainstorming sessions; as well as analyzing appropriate quality of life indicators.

To participate and/or receive updated information regarding the activities and status of this project, please visit www.manatee.fl.us or contact the Manatee County Planning Department, Comprehensive Planning Division, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205.

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News briefs

**Council to Conduct Pinellas Hazards Analyses.** For the second year, the TBRPC is conducting the hazards analyses for Pinellas County’s facilities with Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS). There are 134 such facilities, and 50 percent receive site visits and updated hazards analyses annually so that the entire county is covered on a biennial basis. Site visits are conducted by LEPC Coordinator Bill Lofgren and data entry for the analyses into the Computer Assisted Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) software is performed by TBRPC Planner John McGuinness. The analyses are used for hazardous materials planning.

**LEPC holds Biennial Elections.** Elections for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee, District VIII, are held biennially in July. At the July 24th meeting, Temple Fire Chief Ernie Hiers was reelected as LEPC Chairman. Charles E. Tear, Emergency Management Coordinator for Pasco County was elected Vice Chairman to succeed Dr. Sven Normann. Both officers serve as ex-officio members of all LEPC subcommittees.

**U.S. Coast Guard leads PREP Exercise.** The Tampa Marine Safety Office of the U.S. Coast Guard participated in a large-scale preparedness exercise on Sept. 25, 2002 with SeaRiver Transport, which is the tanker shipping company for Exxon/Mobil Oil Company. The exercise was a tabletop exercise (TTX), employing the concepts of the unified command: federal (Coast Guard), state (Department of Environmental Protection) and responsible party (shipper – SeaRiver). Over 100 participants took part in the exercise that was held at the Wyndham Harbour Hotel.

**LEPC hosts Israeli chemical VIP.** The LEPC was host August 25-28, 2002, of a visit from Amiad Alexandron, Technical Vice President of the Haifa Chemical Company, Israel’s sole importer of anhydrous ammonia. Mr. Alexandron visited Tampa specifically to meet ammonia terminal operators and emergency management personnel for the purpose of sharing ideas to improve safety and security.

He toured CF Industries and IMC Phosphates terminals and visited the Tampa Bay Pipeline Company which transports ammonia from the terminals to phosphate mines in Hillsborough and Polk counties. Both Alexandron and U.S. participants were highly pleased with the fruitful exchange of ideas.
Starting in January 2001, planners began holding a series of public workshops to get ideas from the public, experts in the field, elected officials and anyone with an interest in making sure something comes out of the faucet when you turn it on from 2015 and beyond.

At these workshops, it was “anything goes.” So the ideas flowed freely, more than 300 in all. They ranged from the quite possible to the, shall we say “interesting,” such as towing an iceberg to Tampa Bay or getting everyone to drink imported beer under the theory that our own water supply would remain untouched.

“Yes, icebergs and importing water in tankers were on the list, and another popular idea was cisterns under the house,” said Stephen Simpson, system engineer with Black and Veatch, the consulting firm that is shepherding this process for Tampa Bay Water with help from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. “The process started out re-examining all the ideas brought up before, as well as brainstorming and gathering all kinds of ideas about what the potential water supplies could be.”

Among these were a number of ideas that called for some serious study, and in May the list was shortened to 38. From that, 11 concepts are now getting closer scrutiny with developmental studies and public input.

The public will be asked to weigh in on these ideas at a series of workshops in October, but those interested can comment anytime by logging on to the Web site www.futurewater.org.

“The long term planning process can be challenging because you must consider what will be needed 15, 20, and even 50 years from now. However, it is really important to look into the future in order to have sound water supply options to meet the needs of our children and grandchildren,” said Paula Dye, a chief environmental planner with Tampa Bay Water, which is the wholesale water supplier for Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties and the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa.

But unlike the region’s Master Water Plan, which has been adopted by the Tampa Bay Water board and includes proj-
study from a regional perspective should Oldsmar not proceed. “That’s incredible when you think about it, but someone has to be looking out for that. You take it for granted when you turn on the tap.”

<table>
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<th>Long-Term Water Supply Development Studies</th>
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<td><strong>Small Footprint Reverse Osmosis</strong></td>
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<td>Reverse osmosis (R/O) treatment of surface water, seawater or brackish water for potable use; Rock Mine Lake and other potential sites to be considered.</td>
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| **Desalination Facility Expansion**       |
| Consider potential expansion of Tampa Bay Desalination Plant by 5 mgd and expansion of Gulf Coast Seawater Desalination Plant by 10 mgd. Monitor ongoing activities associated with these projects. |

| **Starkey Ecosystem Enhancement Project (SEEP)** |
| Evaluate the potential to utilize Anclote and Pithlachascotee river water during wet weather on Starkey Wellfield to restore wetlands and to enhance wellfield yields. |

| **East Lake Wells**                       |
| Evaluate the potential to redevelop abandoned wells; study small footprint reverse osmosis treatment if required. |

| **Inter-regional Water Supply**           |
| If feasible, this project concept would require extensive intergovernmental coordination and would include cooperative arrangements with other governmental agencies. |

| **Oldsmar Brackish Groundwater for Regional Supply** |
| Monitor city of Oldsmar’s effort to develop brackish groundwater wells in the Oldsmar area for reverse osmosis treatment. Study from a regional perspective should Oldsmar not proceed. |

| **Downstream Augmentation of Alafia River** |
| In coordination with the city of Tampa staff, review the potential to augment the flow of the Alafia River with surplus wet weather reclaimed water from Howard F. Curren AWWTP, at a point downstream of the existing withdrawal point for potable source. Augmentation will be designed in conjunction with an enhanced withdrawal from the Alafia River. |

| **Interconnects with Utilities/Water Supply Authorities** |
| Study the potential to interconnect with other water utilities for emergency backup and surplus supply exchange (e.g., Dade City, Lakeland, Temple Terrace, Manatee County and other utilities/agencies to be evaluated). |

| **Interconnects/Surplus Co-Use**           |
| Evaluate the utilization of any surplus permitted capacity or reclaimed exchange with current permitted users in the tri-county area through voluntary agreements. |

| **Existing Water Supply Facility Enhancements** |
| Study options to enhance utilization of permitted capacities in Hillsborough River/Tampa Bypass Canal/Alafia River, by supplementing the surface water system with additional sources. Study requirements to expand utilization of existing wells or to locate additional withdrawals to augment existing groundwater facilities. |

| **Springs in the Gulf (To be monitored only)** |
| Monitor the Southwest Florida Water Management District study on springs in the Gulf. Evaluate the potential for utilization of brackish water springs for treatment by reverse osmosis. Springs identified by the USGS include Cedar Island Springs, Jewfish Hole, Unnamed Springs and Crystal Beach Springs. |
High schools have become so overcrowded that within a year of opening they go into double sessions with students split between morning and afternoon attendance schedules.

There have been schools built without sidewalks to reach them. There have been lawsuits filed opposing planned schools because they conflict with the comprehensive plan. One Tampa Bay school district came within months of letting a 12-year offer for a free school site from a developer expire because it was never acted upon.

Limited funding and population growth are to blame for some of these mishaps, but poor communication between school districts and local government is also a factor in each instance. A new law passed by the legislature this year mandates better communication so that schools and governments will benefit from shared information and joint projects.

For the first time the state is requiring school districts and local governments to create interlocal agreements detailing how they will share information and work together. All agreements must be submitted to the Department of Education and the Department of Community Affairs beginning March 2003.

"We are well down the path in coming up with an agreement," said Mike Rapp, Pasco County's school district director of planning. "The outcome should be that everybody (in school districts and government) knows what's going on. There should be no excuse that: "I didn't know you were doing this."

Most school districts and governments already communicate in some way on various issues but now they have to be more formal and organized. There is a check and balance to make sure they each share certain information.

"This is a great opportunity," said Steve Seibert, Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs and former chairman of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. "We have always had the hope that school
boards and local government would coordinate their activities. This really puts a laser focus on that relationship. This was the legislative nudge to get people to do what’s right.”

Siebert expects the 67 different interlocal agreements for each county will contain plans for the schools and governments to talk about capacity, hurricane shelters, joint uses, safe ways to schools, urban design and the impact of new construction on schools.

The effort for joint uses could have the most visible results with projects like public parks going in next to schools. Students can use the park as an outdoor classroom and parkgoers can use the school’s parking lot at nights and on weekends. Or tennis courts and pools that the city was going to build anyway might go in next to a high school.

In working out the details for the interlocal agreement, Rapp said he’s been surprised at some of the information Pasco County planners had that he never knew was available. And, in turn, planners have been pleased to find out some of the data and maps belonging to the school district.

Rapp will also now sit in on county development staff meetings so he knows as early on as anybody about potential Developments of Regional Impact or MPUDS.

The new law requires nine major points that the interlocal agreement must address.

They are as follows:

The school district and local governments must agree on the general population growth projections on which they will base their plans.

They must establish a process for coordinating and share-
We call it “Malfunction Junction.” It’s a not-so-affectionate nickname for the Ashley Street entrance ramp to Interstate 275.

And for motorists attempting to navigate the slowed, sometimes dead-stopped traffic snarl before gunning to high speeds, the experience can be frightening.

A new Florida Department of Transportation project kicking off in mid-October will attempt to correct the problem. It’s part of a massive effort to add lanes and improve the I-275 and Interstate 4 interchange. That means drivers can expect construction over the next four years on I-275 from the Hillsborough River north to Floribraska Avenue and on I-4 from west of 19th Street into the interchange. It’s one of two major highway projects scheduled to be under way at the same time.

The second project — the building of nine miles of elevated, reversible express lanes in the meridian of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway between Brandon and Downtown Tampa — will begin in the next 90 days.

Does this mean more headaches for motorists? Not according to officials at FDOT and the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority.

No pain, no gain. Patience is a definite virtue for commuters when dealing with the new and improved bay area roadways that are in the making.
Authority, which is overseeing the Crosstown project.

The construction on I-275 will be accompanied by a large public information campaign that includes billboard, radio and television ads. All lanes will remain open during peak travel periods, with some lanes closing between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. as needed.

FDOT will also provide 24-hour-a-day “Road Ranger” wrecker patrols to help move disabled vehicles and reduce delays. “We have an extensive program set up to apprise people of what’s going on,” says Bob Clifford, a district-planning manager for FDOT. “We’ll minimize the effect to the public as much as possible.”

Construction will take four years, linking more projects on the Courtney Campbell Causeway, the Spruce Street/Memorial interchange, as well as the rebuilding of I-275 from the Howard Franklin Bridge to the downtown interchange. Eight new bridges will be constructed, 18 existing bridges will be widened, and four lanes in each direction will tie into the proposed four lane projects on each end.

Crosstown construction, which includes the building of a reversible-lane bridge over I-75, will run through 2005. One phase of the project is already under way.

Work on a four-lane parkway that will connect at TownCenter Boulevard with the proposed Brandon Gateway Bridge over I-75, kicked off in August and is expected to be more than half-way complete by December. The new roads will link directly to the reversible lane bridge.

The rest of the project will include building new lanes between Falkenburg Road and Palm River Road at the same level as the expressway. That means traffic will eventually flow between the new, elevated bridge and existing lanes.

During the mornings the three-lane bridge will run one-way from 78th Street to downtown Tampa, doubling the amount of traffic that the expressway can carry. Later in the day lanes will be reversed. Motorists shouldn’t expect hassles.

Segments of the bridge deck will be fabricated at another location and installed when traffic is light. “We’re going to use a very special construction method – we want some choreography” says Martin Stone, director of planning for the Expressway Authority.

All current lanes will remain open with no construction activity during peak times.

Says Stone: “We don’t want to foul up the morning commute.”
SPATIAL GROWTH MODELING

As the bay area grows, the need for computer modeling to plan infrastructure and the building of new communities rises markedly.

The space age meets the information age in a high-tech computer planning tool now being compiled for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Reams of information are being fed into a system of eye-catching virtual reality models that can be run on a simple laptop. And the NASA-supported technology, called Spatial Growth Modeling, makes it easier for decision-makers, planners and the public to ask, “What if?” and get answers in easy-to-digest graphics that dramatically display the impact of growth on roads, water resources, and local budgets.

Want to see the impact a new housing development would have on local roads and water resources?

Click! Combined databases reveal a satellite image of the area with the roads most heavily traveled in red.

What if you add a few more lanes to those roads or some new alternative routes to help relieve traffic?

Click! The troubled roadways are no longer in the red but the change in traffic shows the stress some local streets might endure as a result.

Wondering what a Category 3 hurricane would do to the Tampa Bay area?

Click! There’s a before-and-after image of what a storm surge would do to downtown Tampa that brings home the warnings of erecting critical buildings in harm’s way.

Curious about the strengths and weaknesses in the bay area in the event of a terrorist attack?

Click! By merging readily available information into one combined database, planners can assess the availability of police, hospitals, evacuation routes, and any number of needs and spot the strengths and weaknesses that need attention.

“The information is already available,” says Wil Orr, director of the NASA program at Prescott College, in Prescott, Arizona, whose team was hired to construct the Spatial Growth Modeling project for the Regional Planning Council. “Piles of data and pages of staff reports can often bury decision-makers in paper and numbers so that it’s hard to see the critical issues,” Orr said.

“It’s usually an elected official who comes to us and says ‘I’m drowning in data and dying for knowledge,’” Orr said.

That’s just what sparked Pinellas County Commission Chair Barbara Sheen Todd, Vice Chair of the Regional Planning Council, to bring Spatial Growth Modeling to the attention of other local decision-makers.

“I think the Tampa Bay area is ripe for having this type of tool for the policy-makers,” Todd said. “We could use this to look at water resources, development patterns, social services, economic development – there’s no limit to the variables we could use. And the planning council can serve as a major technological resource center.”

It will take about two to three years to build the suite of digital
planning models and cost about $400,000. But once the investment is made, alternative development scenarios can be easily analyzed and the data used to reveal how decisions will play out over time.

The Regional Planning Council has been joined in this effort by Pinellas County, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Florida Department of Community Affairs.

The partners will combine resources to aid regional planning while using the technology for their own planning purposes as well.

Planning Director Avera Wynne said the Regional Planning Council is excited about having such a graphic-friendly tool to show the public the kind of issues the region is facing.

“We live in a video-game world,” Wynne said, “and this makes it easier for the public to get excited about taking part in the planning process.”
Over the next two decades more and more "service" occupations will be leased professionals, higher paid medical workers and other employees whose jobs and wages are changing due to technology.

The jobs outlook for Tampa Bay area over the next 10 to 20 years is good. Population across the state will grow at a slower rate over the next 10 years than in the past 20, hence employment levels will grow at a slower rate. Still, employment will definitely grow and planners are hopeful about significant increases and changes in the service industry as well as in health care and technology occupations.

The service sector will continue to be the largest industry category in Tampa Bay. While service jobs account for 42 percent of the workforce this year, they will make up 47 percent in 2015. Personnel service jobs, or leased employees, are also part of the ever expanding service sector. So count on accountants, engineers, computer programmers and many other well paying professions to make up more and more of the service industry over the next 20 years.

And because some of the first employee leasing companies fared so well in the Tampa Bay area more have followed. This means our area’s service sector jobs include more well paying leased positions than most others in the state. "The Tampa Bay region has one of the highest concentrations of employee leasing companies in the state," said Bill Dobson, a labor market analyst with the Florida Agency on Workforce Innovation in Tallahassee. "Florida has the highest concentration in the country."

Medical occupations are also changing within the service industry. With baby boomers making up one-third of Florida’s population, as they get older they require more medical service. Twenty years from now 26 percent of the population will be over 65.

So healthcare occupations, which are part of the service industry, will grow significant-

### Occupations expected to thrive

- Computer, Math, and Operations Research Occupations
- Managerial and Administrative
- Protective Services
- Food Prep and Service
- Health Assessment and Treating
- Personal Services
- Teachers, Librarians, Counselors
- Laborers
- Material Movers

### Occupations expected to dwindle

- Secretaries, Stenographers, and Typists
- Construction Trades
- Financial Records Processing
- Computer and Peripheral Operators
- Private Household Workers
- Material Recording, Scheduling, Dispatching and Distributing
- Communications Equipment Operators
- Farm Workers
ly to satisfy that demand. Many procedures that once were done in hospitals are now done in a doctor’s clinic or at a hospital without an overnight stay.

"Those who do end up staying at the hospital have a more critical ailment so they need a more advanced, specialized worker to take care of them," Dobson said. This translates to a better trained employee who gets a better wage. There are an estimated 6,500 licensed practical nurses in Tampa Bay already making a starting wage of $11.66 an hour and can earn $16.32 an hour with experience.

But on the lower end of the health care pay scale there are 9,250 nursing aides and orderlies in Tampa Bay making a starting wage of $7.41 and just $10.31 with experience. The 3,810 home health aids in the region make $7.09 starting and $10.38 with experience.

Both of these low paying occupations will also account for much of the area’s job growth as Baby Boomers live longer with improving medical technology. "One of the problems with the medical industry in areas such as nursing homes is many customers are paying through Medicare and will only pay so much," Dobson said.

"Employers would like to pay better to lower turnover but they only get so much reimbursement from government programs," Dobson said. Until the government makes changes in Medicare and Medicaid the wages for such jobs have little chance of increasing.

Though many high paying occupations within the service sector are growing and changing, this category is still dominated by low wage jobs.

"We will have that 20 years from now if we do not improve our industry mix," Dobson said. "It is not until we have more manufacturing and things in the service fields that employ the higher paying occupations that we will see drastic change in that dominance."

Still, along with health care and other service industry jobs the area can be optimistic about, we can look forward to projected growth in high tech employment. Almost one out of every three jobs created over the next ten years will be classified as high tech. In addition, approximately 40% of all jobs created over the next twenty years will be classified high tech.

Continued on Page 16

The region’s four counties will have high numbers of workers employed in the following occupations in 2008: cashier, retail sales person, registered nurse, general office clerk, general manager and legal or medical secretary.
**WORKFORCE from Page 15**

Projections by the Agency for Workforce Innovation on the occupations gaining the most new jobs in the next six years show the region’s four counties will have high numbers of workers employed in the following occupations in 2008: cashier, retail sales person, registered nurse, general office clerk, general manager and legal or medical secretary. Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco counties also show significant numbers of telemarketers.

Of the 10 occupations gaining the most jobs, Hillsborough has more in the technology sector while Pinellas shows gains in health care and technology.

Manatee County will also see strong increases in manufacturing jobs. Pasco county numbers show teachers and teachers’ aides among the occupations gaining the most jobs. This reflects the fact that Pasco has more room for new residential homes and apartments and more residents mean more teachers are needed.

As for the industries gaining the most new jobs, all four counties, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and Manatee have the same top three industries projected through not in the same order. They are: health services, local government and business services. Manatee, Pasco and Hillsborough are all projected to lose close to 1,500 agricultural jobs combined from the already small farming segment.

**SCHOOLS from Page 9**

In Hillsborough all school sites have to be approved by the county commission to make sure they are consistent with land use.

In Hillsborough all school sites have to be approved by the county commission to make sure they are consistent with land use. These omissions make the interlocal agreement more of a baby step instead of a solution to overcrowded schools, said Charles Pattison, Executive Director of 1,000 Friends of Florida, a growth management watchdog group. "It's an important step and we supported it but we were hoping it would have done more," he said. "(School districts) have more of a voice but they don't have an independent veto against planned development approvals." He also would like to see some specific requirements on setting school or classroom capacities.

Mark Hart, spokesman for the Hillsborough County school board also wishes there was more of a provision for schools to slow down building permit issues if they will lead to overcrowding before the district can finance new schools. But he hopes the interlocal agreement will make a difference even without such a provision. "The better we can work with the county and the more recognition we can get that schools are a critical infrastructure just like roads and other infrastructure will certainly help," Hart said.

The school board and Hillsborough County government already have an interlocal agreement that was born several years ago after residents of rural Lutz opposed a new high school site saying it was incompatible with the character of their community. Now all school sites have to be approved by the county commission to make sure they are consistent with land use.

Hillsborough’s existing agreement will be amended to meet additional requirements of the new law. "It’s going to take away all the fun, if you want to call it fun, of one agency bickering at another agency," Rapp said. "We are all sitting in the same boat now and it doesn’t do any good to complain if the boat has leaks."

"Fundamentally, integrating school and land planning is about forming new relationships," states TBRPC Executive Director Manny Pumariega. "We hope this new process results in less crowded schools, increased sharing of expensive facilities, and perhaps a better balance between new suburban and improved urban schools."
Call for Future of the Region Award entries

Do you have a project or program that exemplifies regionalism? We invite you to participate in the 11th Annual Future of the Region Awards Program.

Beginning with the Call for Entries on Dec. 9, 2002 and culminating with the Awards Luncheon in March 2003, the Annual Future of the Region Awards (FOR) Program will provide recognition for outstanding achievements and contributions that benefit the regional community.

Entries must be received at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council by 5:00 p.m., Friday, Jan. 24, 2003.

Entries will be judged in the following categories: Community Service, Cultural/Sports/Recreation, Development, Environmental, Infrastructure and Public Education.

This year’s competition features a new award – the Herman Goldner Award, which will be presented to one dedicated individual whose accomplishments have benefitted the regional community.

Award recipients are chosen by a jury comprised of prominent professionals with expertise in regional planning.

For more information, contact Wren McAllister, TBRPC Manager of Administrative Services/Public Information, at 727/570-5151, ext.221 or by e-mail: wren@tbrpc.org.

Charles A. McIntosh, Jr. 1918-2002

In memory of Mayor Mac

From the time he was born in Palmetto until his death on August 26, 2002, at the age of 84, “Mayor Mac” of Dade City was known not only for his accomplishments, but for his sweet personality. He was truly a Southern gentleman. “Mayor Mac” served as mayor of Dade City for 10 years in the late 1980’s and the 1990’s.

Charles McIntosh was a member of the Huckabay family, a pioneering family in Dade City. He attended St. Leo College Prep School from 1933-35 and the University of Florida from 1935-38. He met his wife, Virginia Mac Lackman, during the war in Europe where she was with the Red Cross. They were married in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia in 1946. They had two daughters.

Shortly after marrying, Mr. McIntosh was inducted into the Army as a major in the finance corps. He retired as a colonel in 1966 after serving in various roles, including landing with assault forces at Omaha Beach on D-Day. He went on to become Assistant Dean and head of the MBA program at Syracuse University’s School of Management and received his MBA there in 1966. After returning to Dade City in 1976, he served as Associate Dean at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Mr. McIntosh’s many civic accomplishments include serving on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council from 1985-1999. In 1998 the Council honored him by naming the highest award in the Future of the Region program, the Charles A. McIntosh Jr. Award of Distinction.

The “McIntosh Award” recognizes excellence in regional planning and is in its 11th year. “Mayor McIntosh has never missed the annual Future of the Region Awards Luncheon,” said TBRPC Chair, Councilman Jerry King. “This coming year, the award will take on an even more important meaning as we continue to pay tribute to the legacy of this true statesman.”

As current Dade City Mayor, Scott Black, said, “Our Prince is gone. It’s the end of an era. It’s kind of a story, you could say, of a small-town boy who made good.”
Small business survival kit available in CD form

The Business Disaster Planning Committee is in full swing and busy updating the "Small Business Disaster Survival Kit" under a new grant from the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The new CD-ROM will provide guidance to prepare for technological emergencies in addition to natural hazards. "We're focusing on giving the business owner tools to prepare and minimize their risk from hazardous materials, terrorism, sabotage and violence in the workplace as well as tropical storms and hurricanes." stated Commissioner Joan Runyon of South Pasadena.

The new product will be available in May 2003 through emergency management and chambers of commerce. The State, whose experts also serve on the committee, may take the CD-ROM statewide, if funding becomes available.

Regional Directory – a gold mine of contacts

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s Regional Information Center (RIC) produces the annual Regional Directory for the Tampa Bay Region. The Directory contains phone numbers, addresses, website addresses, and contacts in local and state government.

The Directory also includes media listings, election information, chambers of commerce, as well as environmental, transportation, and housing agencies.

The Directory is available through the Regional Information Center for a charge of $15.00 each. To obtain a copy(ies), visit www.tbrpc.org and print out the order form found on the home page, or call 727/570-5151 ext. 278 for instructions.

Supplies are limited. Order today!
It has been long said that the general public needed to become more actively involved in the planning of their communities.

In the spring and early summer, the Council staff engaged in facilitating such public involvement.

Beginning in May with the City of Zephyrhills and concluding in July with the City of Bradenton Beach, the staff facilitated six public workshops.

The purpose of the workshops was for the public to have a say in what the community was to look like in 20 years, develop a community vision statement and identify strategies for achieving the identified community themes.

Starting in September and November, the staff will be conducting community visioning workshops for the cities of Holmes Beach and Anna Maria.
New publication celebrates namesake waterway

Tampa Bay Soundings, a new publication for those eager to learn more about the region’s namesake waterway and the region’s other natural resources, made its debut in July.

Initiated by TBRPC, the inaugural issue features the Terra Ceia habitat restoration project and the ongoing cleanup of the Piney Point fertilizer plant. It also includes articles on beach-nesting birds, paddling the Hillsborough River, manatee protection zones, and a calendar of resource-related activities and events.

The next edition, due out in October, will focus on the role of freshwater in Tampa Bay, and include articles on Egmont Key, Emerson Point, water quality and biological monitoring, and more.

Subscription to the quarterly journal is free, thanks to support from the Pinellas County Environmental Foundation, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Gulfstream Natural Gas System, Pinellas-Anclote Basin Board of SWFWMD, Tampa Port Authority, Cargill Fertilizer Inc., CF Industries Inc., Florida Power & Light Co., and Richard Davis, P.A.

For your free subscription, email circulation@tbsoundings.com or write to Tampa Bay Soundings, c/o Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2491.

It is also available online at www.tbsoundings.com.

Piney Point: A lesson in cooperation

The Piney Point facility, a fertilizer production facility near Port Manatee was abandoned by the Mulberry Phosphate Company in mid-2001. State officials moved in to manage the gypsum stacks and the nutrient-rich process water seeping from them. The stacks hold about 1.2 billion gallons of water, and each inch of rainfall on the site and its drainage area adds 12 million gallons.

Tropical Storm Gabrielle dumped 12 inches of rain in 48 hours, part of nearly 20 inches (240 million gallons) added to the site in September 2001. The holding capacity of the gyp stacks was at a maximum and a catastrophic release was possible. Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Secretary David Struhs signed an emergency order authorizing the release of up to 50 million gallons of partially-treated water into Bishop’s Harbor, part of the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve.

Ten million gallons were released, carrying 16.2 tons of nitrogen into Bishop’s Harbor. Nitrogen levels in the harbor rose from normal to 33 parts per billions, well above a healthy level.

At that point the Agency on Bay Management (ABM) established a task force to find alternatives to discharging into Bishop’s Harbor. A number of measures have now been put into place in order to increase the on-site capacity to handle the year’s expected rainfall, including: raising the gyp stacks’ dikes, reducing the surface area that creates contaminated water; adding 92 million gallons of storage capacity; trucking a total of 700,000 gallons per day (gpd) to Manatee County’s wastewater treatment plant, Cargill Inc., CF Industries and (soon to start) Florida Power & Light.

Reverse osmosis treatment has begun, generating about 600,000 gpd of very high-quality water, and FDEP is looking for additional users.

Meanwhile, as of early August, about 300,000 gpd of high-quality water is being discharged to Bishop’s Harbor. This will continue at least until the end of the rainy season, and it is hoped that closure of the stacks will begin at that time. Long-term, a possible use for the gyp stacks is as a reservoir for reclaimed water, a project for which Manatee County is seeking federal funds. The remainder of the site is suitable for industrial development.

Without the efforts of FDEP, ABM’s Task Force members, Cargill, CF Industries, FP&L and Manatee County, Bishop’s Harbor and Tampa Bay would have suffered much more extensive adverse environmental impacts. Because of these efforts, we are making positive strides toward a long-term resolution regarding the problems of Piney Point.

Update on DRIs

Several new Development of Regional Impact proposals are being reviewed within the Tampa Bay Region.

Manatee County is experiencing numerous mining proposals, while southern Pasco County is being considered for a significant amount of residential and non-residential uses, which include two separate regional mall projects. While Hillsborough County experienced a balanced mixture of land uses in the recent past, the only current Hillsborough County project represents an expansion of office uses. Many of the recent requests for modification of existing DRIs have come in the form of buildout extensions and/or alternative land uses.
40 years of firsts

In its 40 years of existence, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has chalked up a list of impressive firsts.

- The first RPC in the State of Florida.
- The first to produce Future of the Region, the plan which served as a model for the 10 other RPCs in the state.
- The first to complete a regional hurricane evacuation study, used as a model throughout the nation.
- The first to develop a natural resource committee, the Agency on Bay Management.
- The first in bringing the SWIM Program to Tampa Bay.
- The first in bringing a National Estuary Program to Tampa Bay.
- The first RPC to secure 10,000 signatures to enable the Tampa Bay Estuary to have its own license tag, which is projected to bring more than $150,000 annually back to the Region for environmental programs.
- The first in bringing an Area Agency on Aging to the State of Florida.

Tampa Bay is getting better ...
YOU CAN HELP!

Reel in your tarpon tag today and help keep Tampa Bay on the road to recovery. Please request a Tampa Bay Estuary license tag the next time you renew your auto registration. Be a part of an environmental success story—the restoration of Florida’s largest open-water estuary. When it comes time to renew your car, motor home or boat trailer license plate, or even before, choose the Tampa Bay Estuary specialty plate. You will be contributing directly to projects that restore Tampa Bay’s natural habitats and improve water quality—ensuring the survival of inhabitants like the spectacular Silver King Tarpon that’s pictured on the plate.

Tarpon illustration by Russ Sirmons
Who are we and what we do

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council offers a wide variety of services and products. Can we provide a service to you? Among the services and programs the Council offers: economic modeling and analysis; community visioning and charrette planning; spatial growth modeling; hurricane and hazard preparedness planning; the official Hurricane Guide; the Small Business Disaster Kit; GIS mapping; printing for local governments and nonprofits; and technical assistance to local governments.

Our Regional Information Center is open to the public from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays. The center serves as a Florida State Data Center; official U.S. Census affiliate; provides technical Assistance; and is a clearinghouse for technical assistance and administrative materials related to planning and development in the Tampa Bay Region.

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Economic Analysis Program
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Public Information
Wren McAllister, Manager of Administrative Services/Public Information, x221

Agendas go high-tech

We have updated Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council meeting agendas to include links to specific reports for individual agenda items. Readers can now go on our Web site, www.tbrpc.org, view various Council meeting agendas, and click on the link to a particular report.

If someone has further questions regarding an agenda item, the online agendas now include email links to the appropriate staff contact.

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Credits

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council extends gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Fall/Winter 2002 edition of Visions magazine:

All Children’s Hospital; Secretary Steve Seibert, Department of Community Affairs; Manatee County Planning Department; National Association of Regional Councils; Pinellas County Public Affairs; Tampa Bay Partnership; Tampa Bay Water; Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority; The Florida Orchestra; and The St. Pete Parrots.
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